

TO: COUNCIL
30 APRIL 2014

CHAMPIONS' ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14
Director of Corporate Services –Democratic and Registration Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The attached Annual Report appraises all Members of the work undertaken by the Council's five Champions during the year 2013-14. The report informs Members of activities and their outcomes.

2 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 **That the Champions' Annual Report 2013 - 14 be noted.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 As part of the Council's constitution one of the Champions' key tasks is to submit an annual report on work undertaken throughout the year for consideration by the Council.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 At its discretion, the Council may, from time to time, designate Champions from amongst Councillors who are not Members of the Executive. The Council currently has five Champions:

- Corporate Business Champion – Councillor Heydon
- Commuters' Champion - Councillor Harrison
- Older People's Champion - Councillor Thompson
- Small Business Champion - Councillor Wade
- Voluntary Sector Champion - Councillor Finnie

- 5.2 The role and function of a Council Champion is to act as a positive focus for the local community at elected member level in respect of the relevant section of the community or range of activities designated by the Council. This is to ensure that full consideration is given to the impact of Council activities and decisions upon the section of the community or range of activities.

- 5.3 The key tasks of Council Champions are to:

- (a) To make contact with local organisations concerned with the designated section of the community or range of activities and to establish effective and regular consultation arrangements with those organisations.

Unrestricted

- (b) To represent the views of such organisations to Officers, the Council, the Executive, Overview and Scrutiny Panels and other Committees, on all relevant aspects of the Council's activities.
- (c) To act as an advocate on behalf of the relevant section of the community or range of activities within the Council as an organisation and to the wider community.
- (d) To become familiar with the needs and priorities of the relevant section of the community, or range of activities concerned, and to weigh up interests expressed in order to provide sound advice on the implications of alternative courses of action.
- (e) To feedback decisions of the Borough Council and to explain the Council's position on specific issues of concern to relevant organisations and to individuals involved.
- (f) To publish an annual report on work undertaken over each year for consideration by the Council.
- (g) To appoint Panels to support their work where this would not overlap with other established liaison or consultative mechanisms, in line with the requirements of the Council's constitution

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 Nothing to add to the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 The role of Council Champion is ensure that full consideration is given to the impact of Council activities and decisions upon the section of the community or range of activities which they represent.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None relevant to this report.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 Not applicable.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Not applicable.

Representations Received

7.3 Not applicable.

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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